

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, I. R. TANNEHILL in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, OCTOBER 1936

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—The pressure averaged considerably below normal over the waters near Greenland and Iceland; Julianehaab, Greenland, averaged almost a quarter-inch below normal. Elsewhere pressure averaged slightly to considerably above normal, with the greatest excess from the Azores northeastward to the Bay of Biscay and the waters round Ireland.

The northeasternmost part of the ocean had higher pressure than normal practically throughout the first 12 days of October, and mainly lower pressure afterward, save near Ireland. On the other hand, the record of Horta shows practically all of the pressure readings that were either below or close to normal occurred during the first 12 days.

The extreme pressures so far reported from vessels are 30.69 and 28.61 inches. The higher reading was noted on the Dutch motorship *Drechtidijk*, during the forenoon of the 14th, near 42° N., 22° W.; the lower reading was made on the Swedish motorship *Blankaholm*, about 8 a. m., on the 26th, near 58° N., 20° W. Julianehaab, Greenland, recorded even lower pressure on the 28th.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, October 1936

Station	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Julianehaab, Greenland	29.50	-0.24	29.98	7	28.40	28
Reykjavik, Iceland	29.57	-.11	30.09	7, 9	28.76	24
Lerwick, Shetland Islands	29.82	+.03	30.39	9	28.62	27
Valencia, Ireland	30.09	+.18	30.42	11, 12	29.53	26
Lisbon, Portugal	30.13	+.11	30.39	27	29.80	5
Madeira	30.09	+.10	30.33	14	29.83	17
Horta, Azores	30.29	+.18	30.60	24	29.98	1
Belle Isle, Newfoundland	29.86	.00	30.56	24	28.90	27
Halifax, Nova Scotia	30.10	+.06	30.58	15	29.46	18
Nantucket	30.08	+.03	30.58	14	29.27	17
Hatteras	30.08	+.02	30.38	31	29.50	17
Bermuda	30.10	+.03	30.24	4	29.84	18
Turks Island	29.96	+.01	30.04	10	29.89	18
Key West	29.95	+.01	30.10	24	29.81	17
New Orleans	30.04	+.01	30.31	30	29.85	10

NOTE.—All data based on a. m. observation only, with departures compiled from best available normals related to time of observation, except Hatteras, Key West, Nantucket, and New Orleans, which are 24-hour corrected means.

Cyclones and gales.—There were many reports of gales, apparently more than usual during October, but comparatively few of these reports indicated force 10 (whole gale) or greater.

During the first 3 days, strong to whole gales were noted in midocean and thence eastward to the waters

near Ireland. Then, about the 13th, a very intense storm, advancing down the St. Lawrence Valley and thence northeastward to southern Greenland, caused winds of hurricane strength to northeastward of Belle Isle, as noted on the British steamship *Helmstrath*.

Over the waters just east of the United States coast the most important period of gales during the month was connected with a storm that was central over Georgia on the morning of the 16th, with only moderate energy. There was a marked increase in strength during the movement of the center northeastward over the Atlantic States and Labrador till it reached the vicinity of Godthaab, Greenland, late on the 19th. The American tanker *A. C. Bedford*, about 350 miles east of the Virginia Capes, recorded wind of force 11 during the afternoon of the 17th. The American freight steamship *Edwin Christenson*, on a short coastwise run, with only a light load remaining, was caught the same day not far from the shore of Long Island and narrowly escaped being blown aground. The great British liner *Queen Mary*, westbound, was in a very heavy beam sea for 4 hours early on the 18th, when less than a day's run east of New York Harbor.

To the northward of the forty-fifth parallel, from midocean eastward to the North Sea, the final week of October witnessed vigorous storm activity. The American steamship *Bessemer City* noted force 12 wind on the 26th, in the Irish Sea, while the Swedish motorship *Blankaholm* encountered like strength of wind on the same day, when well west of Scotland, and again on the 29th, when near 55° N., 30° W. Considerable loss of life in European waters because of the intense gales of this week is indicated by press dispatches.

From the southeastern part of the North Atlantic Ocean, reports come of brief wind storms near the Guinea coast during the nights of 12-13th and 14-15th. These were of the violent type that blow from the east or south-east, and are styled "tornadoes" by mariners accustomed to traversing those waters.

Fog.—There was considerably less fog than there had been during September just preceding; and on the whole there was less fog than normally occurs during October, especially over the eastern and central parts of the North Atlantic, where several squares, even to northward of the forty-fifth parallel, furnished no reports at all.

The waters near the Grand Banks and the coast of Nova Scotia had more fog than most other areas; the square 45° to 50° N., 45° to 50° W., led in occurrence, with 10 days. Near Nova Scotia and thence southward to Delaware Bay, fog was almost limited in occurrence to the days from 7th to 11th, inclusive. To southward of Hatteras no fog was reported.